

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/587,265

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

Applicant(s)

TAKEO ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/23/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Kim, Applicant's representative, registration # 48,360, on 09/30/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A document editing apparatus for displaying on a screen a document comprising a content described in plural permeable layers by displaying the permeable layers one on another on the screen, the apparatus comprising:

document synthesis means for displaying the permeable layers that have been set to be displayed on [a] **the** screen based on display/non-display setting included in data of each layer;

document editing means for generating a new permeable layer **based on a user entry of comments among multiple user entries** and adding thereof to the document [comprising] **which includes the** permeable layers displayed on the screen, and for generating, when the new permeable layer is added, information of the permeable layers displayed on the screen as layer display state information at the time of adding

the new permeable layer, [the new permeable layer being based on a user entry of comments among multiple user entries,] the new permeable layer including deterministic mark information for indicating a temporary layer display state information based on [a] the user entry [of a deterministic designation] to the document editing means;

layer state managing means for managing the layer display state information in correlation with the new added permeable layer;

display designation receiving means for receiving a display designation for specifying an arbitrary layer from [a] the user; and

layer state reproducing means for controlling the document synthesis means to display the permeable layers [that was] displayed on the screen when the [specified] new permeable layer was added based on the layer display state information at the time of adding the new permeable layer in response to reception of the layer specification from the display designation receiving means, wherein the state of the document, when the specified permeable layer was added, is reproduced.

2. (Previously Presented) The document editing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the document editing apparatus comprises a client apparatus and a server apparatus connected to each other by way of a communication line, and wherein

the client apparatus comprises the document synthesis means, the document editing means, the display designation receiving means, and layer state reproducing means, and

the server apparatus comprises the layer state managing means and document managing means for managing data of each permeable layer.

3. (Previously Presented) The document editing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the client apparatus further comprises layer state temporarily storing means for temporarily storing layer display state information of each of plural permeable layers added by the document editing means, transmitting the temporarily stored layer display state information to the layer state managing means when the added plural permeable layer data pieces are transmitted to the document managing means and reflected on the document, and controlling the layer state managing means to manage it.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In interpreting the claims in light of the specification and applicant's arguments, the Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art of record, Aoyama et al. (Aoyama), U.S. Patent No. 6,493,732, Takakura et al. (Takakura), U.S. Patent No. 5,848,430, and Tabuchi, U.S. Patent No. 5,950,215, teach the invention substantially as claimed.

Aoyama discloses version information including its version name and creation date is stored in storage each time a document is edited, and providing a display method for representing to user a display image in which version information is combined with configuration information (Abstract, col. 2, lines 46-53, col. 4, lines 17-38, col. 8, line 64 – col. 9, line 10 and Fig. 6).

Takakura discloses Takakura et al. disclose a screen control command 6-12 in Fig. 6 designates the manner of the screen display, i.e., layer display, non-layer display (col. 12, line 37 – col. 13, line 28). Takakura et al. also disclose the order of the fixed frame control data tables of the presently edited document page, which tables are developed in the main memory1-5, is changed (edit layer of the document), thus the moved fixed frame is re-displayed (col. 18, lines 49-67).

Tabuchi also disclose when audience newly produces, in a presentation material, a container (layer) in which data is to be embedded, the audience sets context information attendant on the container (layer) and available for everyone's reference, and history information showing version (V1, V2, ..., Vn) are set as context information to a plurality of layers (col. 11, line 39 – col. 12, line 2).

2. Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record does not expressly disclose alone or in combination “the new permeable layer displayed based on a user entry of comments among multiple user entries, the new permeable layer including deterministic mark information for indicating a temporary layer display state information based on the user entry to the document editing means”

The dependent claims 2-3 further limit independent claim 1, therefore they are considered allowable for the same reason set forth for claim 1.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-4639. The Examiner's future phone number is (571) 272-4092, which will be effective sometime in October 2004. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild, can be reached at (703) 305-9792. Joseph Field's future phone number is (571) 272-4090, which will be effective sometime in October 2004.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chau Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER